

Amendments To The Specification:

In the English translation document, please delete the term --Description-- at page 1 written line 1, before the title.

In the English translation document, please add the paragraph at page 1 after written line 2, after the title, as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US National Stage of International Application No. PCT/DE03/00894, filed March 18, 2003 and claims the benefit thereof. The International Application claims the benefits of German application No. 10213871.0 filed March 27, 2002, both of the applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 after written line 2, after the newly added CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section, as follows:

--FIELD OF INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 1 written lines 3-4, as follows:

The invention relates to a method for operating and monitoring MPLS networks in accordance with the preamble of Patent Claim 1.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 after written line 4, as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 3 after written line 3, as follows:

--SUMMARY OF INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 3 written lines 6-8, as follows:

The object of the invention is achieved by the claims, ~~starting from the features specified in the preamble of Patent Claim 1, by the characterizing features.~~

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 3 written lines 14-15, as follows:

Advantageous developments of the invention are specified in the dependent ~~sub~~claims.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 3 after written line 17, as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 3 after written line 22, as follows:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 6 written line 23 to page 7 written line 3, as follows:

In a first embodiment of the invention one of the EXP (experimental) bits can be used in the MPLS packet header to distinguish MPLS OAM packets from MPLS packets carrying payload data. This procedure in particular provides a very simple method of distinguishing the packets. This bit can be checked in the sink of an MPLS OAM segment or at the Connection Points CP to filter out MPLS OAM packets before further evaluations are undertaken.